

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IMCO, CA, AORG, EWWT
SUBJECT: TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION:
PREPARATIONS FOR IMCO PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE IN
LONDON, FEB. 6-17, 1978

REF: 77 STATE 296444

1. ON JANUARY 31 EMBOFF REVIEWED CANADIAN PREPARATIONS
FOR IMCO PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING (LONDON FEB. 6-17)
WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL (BOB HAGE). WITH TWO
EXCEPTIONS (DOUBLE BOTTOMS AND SEGREGATED BALLAST
TANKS--SEE BELOW), GOC FULLY SUPPORTS U.S. PROPOSALS
TO AMEND 1973 MARINE POLLUTION CONVENTION AND 1974
SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA CONVENTION, AND U.S. DELEGATION
CAN EXPECT STRONG SUPPORT AND FULL COOPERATION FROM
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION IN LONDON ON SUCH ISSUES AS
DOUBLE RADAR, STEERING GEAR STANDARDS, ETC.

2. DOUBLE BOTTOMS: BECAUSE OF HIGH COST IN RELATION
TO ITS "NEGLIGIBLE" ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, GOC DOES
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NOT SUPPORT INITIATIVE TO MAKE DOUBLE BOTTOMS A
MANDATORY REQUIREMENT AND HOPES U.S. WILL NOT PRESS THIS
APPROACH IN CONFERENCE. ON OTHER HAND, CANDEL WOULD BE
QUITE WILLING TO SUPPORT A DOUBLE BOTTOMS PROPOSAL IF
IT WERE IN FORM OF RECOMMENDATION.

3. SEGREGATED BALLAST TANKS (SBT): GOC IS ON THE FENCE

ON THIS ISSUE. ITS DELEGATION IN LONDON WILL BE OPEN TO ARGUMENTS WHICH COULD ESTABLISH ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS IN RELATION TO COST. GOC HAS INFORMED UK THAT CANDEL COULD SUPPORT ITS ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CRUDE OIL WASHING (COW), AT LEAST INITIALLY, BUT WOULD PREFER PROPOSAL WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE BOTH APPROACHES, E.G. USE OF COW FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF 8 YEARS TO PERMIT INDUSTRY TIME TO RETROFIT, AFTER WHICH SBT REGIME WOULD COME INTO FORCE.

4. HAGE SAID GOC POSITION RE ACCEPTABLE GAL INSTRUMENT TO COME OUT OF CONFERENCE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF U.S., AND THAT CANDEL LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH U.S. DEL ON THIS QUESTION. IF EFFORT TO COMBINE SWEDISH PROPOSAL (FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ANNEX II OF MARINE POLLUTION CONVENTION) WITH U.S. PROPOSAL (TO INCREASE TANKER SAFETY STANDARDS OF THE CONVENTION) IS NOT SUCCESSFUL, GOC WOULD PREFER TWO SEPARATE PROTOCOLS FOR THESE PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO HAGE, GOC PLANS TO RATIFY 1974 CONVENTION BUT HAS NO PRESENT PLANS TO RATIFY 1973 CONVENTION. IT FEELS LOS INCT DISCUSSIONS HAVE NOT DEVELOPED TO STAGE WHERE IT COULD SUPPORT, WITHOUT FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS, PROVISION OF 1973 CONVENTION UNDER WHICH SIGNATORIES SHALL MAKE CONVENTION CONTRAVENTIONS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION, CONTRAVENTIONS UNDER ITS LAW.
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5. CANADA'S DELEGATION OF 8 WILL BE HEADED BY W.A. O'NIELL, COMMISSIONER OF CANADIAN COAST GUARD.
ENDERS

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